

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

MAY 9, 2021



# St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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Church Website: <http://www.stjohnorthodox.org>

Member Directory: <https://stjohnorthodox.org/directory.html> u: Faithful p: TheWay

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May 9, 2021

New Sunday or Anti-Pascha

Sunday of Thomas the Apostle, Called “The Twin”



On May 9 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Prophet Isaiah; Martyr Christopher of Lycia; and the translation to Bari of the relics of Nicholas the wonderworker, archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior’s side.

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means “in place of Pascha” because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ’s Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday of the Resurrection, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, “Peace be unto you.” Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior’s scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. Then Thomas immediately cried out, “My Lord and my God!” But Jesus tells His Disciples, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ.

By the intercessions of Thine Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

## **THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA**

In the gathering places bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

## **APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN**

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

## **THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT**

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

## **THE EPISTLE**

*Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good.*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (5:12-20)**

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said: "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

### **THE GOSPEL - The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, you have believed because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

## **Doubt and a Blessing**

*The doubt of Thomas did not prevent Your Resurrection,  
nor was his unbelief without a use.*

*For now Thomas undoubtingly shows Your Resurrection to  
all the nations,*

*who before were unbelieving, but now are taught to say:*

*Blessed are You, our God, the Lord exalted by the fathers!*

*(Matins Hymn from Thomas Sunday)*



A normal part of having faith in God in our fallen world is also doubting – God, ourselves, the witness of others. The Gospel lesson of the doubting Thomas (John 20:19-31) is

read in the Orthodox Church on the Sunday after Pascha. We commemorate that hard reality that even the Twelve Apostles experienced a loss of faith and doubts despite being with Jesus on a daily basis and experiencing His words and miracles.

In the above hymn we encounter a truth of faith: our belief or doubts do not solely determine what God will do. That Thomas did not believe Christ rose from the dead did not prevent Christ's resurrection. God freely chooses how to respond even to our doubts or disbelief or denial. As the hymn notes, on the other had, doubt is not without purpose. The hymn is not advocating predestination in which human behavior is inconsequential. Thomas' personal doubt led him to seek proof of the claimed resurrection. He became convinced of the resurrection and then went forth into the world as an Apostle to proclaim the Gospel.

The doubt of Thomas honestly reveals the humanity of the Apostles – they are men and women like ourselves. They had to deal with all the issues and problems created by having faith in God. They had to deal with their own personal doubts. Despite being with Christ daily, they sometimes doubted their own perceptions. Their free will remained and they had to choose to believe, to follow Christ, to do His will. They had to cooperate with God for their own salvation. Faith still requires us to make choices. And as long as there are choices there will be doubts about what to believe and what to do. Faith is neither mindless or thoughtless. And doubt can serve a purpose in a person's life and in the Christian community. Had the other disciples expelled Thomas from their fellowship when he expressed his unbelief they would have deprived the Church of an important witness. We would not understand the role that a disciple like Thomas plays in our communities. We would have failed to understand the blessedness which doubt can play in a believer's life and in the life of the Church.

*-Fr. Ted Bobosh*

## **WISDOM**

*“It is best to live simply. Do not rack your brain. Pray to God. The Lord will arrange everything, just live more simply. Do not agonize over how and what to do; let things take their natural course. That is what it means to live simply.” - St. Ambrose of Optina*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Antiochian Women Social Event at Joy Corey's, Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** - Thursday, May 13th all women of the parish are invited to a dinner at the home of Joy Corey at 6:00 p.m. This is to be our second Social Event for 2021. Joy will be providing the main meal but anyone wanting to bring a desert or some kind of hors d'oeuvres or wine, please feel free to do so and let Joy know.

Kindly RSVP to Joy at 208-660-0538 if you plan to attend. This is a great way for the women of the parish to draw closer to each other and to enjoy good company, share our respective experiences of Pascha this year and to welcome all those newer members of our community whom we have not been able to spend quality time with up until now.

Directions to Joy's home: From Highway 41 turn up the hill (heading eastward) onto Mullan (there's a gas station on the southeast corner of Mullan & Hiway 41) until you come to the first street on your right which is Sterling (There is a sign on that corner which reads Highlands Golf and Country Club. Turn R on to Sterling. When you get to the top of the hill, the Highlands Spa will be on your left. Make a L turn onto Inverness. Drive past the Highlands Spa on your left and continue on Sterling until you come to the first possible R turn which is Chisholm Court. Turn R onto Chisholm. You will be driving due East. Suddenly, Chisholm Court will turn and you will then be heading South. Joy's house will be the 4th on the left side. The address is 760 Chisholm Court, Post Falls.

**Father Mark & Kh. Jo Traveling** – Fr. Mark & Kh. Jo will be out of town from Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> through Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>. Fr. Nicholas will be available for any emergencies and can be contacted at (208) 640-9804.

**Men's Fellowship Gathering, Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> - Christ is risen!** - The weather is beautiful, it's the Paschal season, and what better time to get together and fellowship as brothers? Mark your calendars for Friday, June 11th at 6:30pm at the Plew home in Post Falls (just a few minutes from the parish).

Please bring a dish to share, and a drink of your choice. We'll be outside for a good portion of our time together.

Our address is: 112 S. Linden St. Post Falls, ID 83854

In Christ, Aaron Plew (805) 312-5810

### **St. Herman of Alaska Scholarship Fund**

St. Herman's Scholarship Fund has been established to help students who wish to pursue or are currently pursuing full time study in an institution of learning (two or four year college or university) or a vocational institute. It was created for the purpose of helping young people who have recently graduated from high school or are already in college. Each year a student will be selected to receive a stipend of \$2,000. In order to be eligible for the stipend, a student should be a member in good standing at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Post Falls or at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Spokane or at Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Church in Bonners Ferry, and a full time student at a high school or college with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4 point scale. Academic excellence, financial need and church/community service will be taken into account in the awarding of the stipend.

Please see Fr. Mark or Barbara Garbinski for an application form. JUNE 14th is the deadline.



*"Let the children come to Me"*

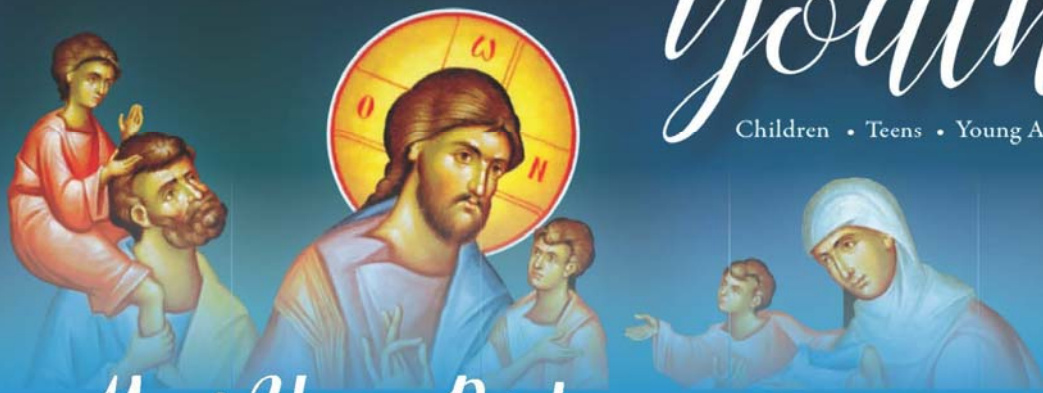
Matthew 19:14

2021

YEAR OF

*The Youth*

Children • Teens • Young Adults



## *Meet Your Bishop:* TOWNHALLS

*An opportunity for youth to meet hierarchs of the Assembly of Bishops in a townhall setting.*

### *Northeast Region*

Date: Tuesday April 13th

Time: 7:00 pm EDT

### *Central West Region*

Date: Tuesday October 12th

Time: 7:00 pm CDT

### *Southeast Region*

Date: Tuesday May 11th

Time: 7:00 pm EDT

### *North West Region*

Date: Tuesday November 9th

Time: 7:00 pm PST

### *Central East Region*

Date: Tuesday September 14th

Time: 7:00 pm CDT

### *South West Region*

Date: Tuesday December 14th

Time: 7:00 pm PST



ASSEMBLYOFBISHOPS.ORG

**Blessed Mother's Day to all of our St. John Mothers!** - Today we celebrate and give thanks to God for all the beautiful mothers at St. Johns. Today we honor the myriad ways you sacrifice your lives, time, and energy for your families and your children, and thereby the Kingdom of God! May He continue to bless, keep, and strengthen you and your families in his loving care! Many blessed years!

**Mother's Day Potluck!** - This Sunday, in celebration of the mothers in our church, we are having a potluck after service. We'd like the men and children to prepare their wife's/mother's favorite dish and/or dessert to enjoy after liturgy. Please contact Ignatius with any questions you may have at 253-678-0121.

### **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS**

**Saturday, May 8:** Great Vespers 6:00pm

**Sunday, May 9: St. Thomas Sunday** – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Blessing of the St. John Cemetery graves following; Parish Directory photos during coffee hour - last day to have your photograph taken for the new parish directory.

**Wednesday, May 12:** Vespers 6:00pm; Parish Council 7:00pm

**Thursday, May 13:** Antiochian Women's Gathering at Joy Corey's 6:00pm

**Friday, May 14:** Spiritual Circle 9:30am

**Saturday, May 15:** Great Vespers 6:00pm

**Sunday, May 16: Holy Myrrhbearers** – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am

### **EPISTLE READERS**

5/9	Sbdn. Barnabas	5/23	Reader Sebastian
5/16	Reader Silouan	5/30	Reader David

### **BOOKSTORE**

5/9	Terri Izzi	5/23	Victoria Thomas
5/16	Kelly Peterson	5/30	Tim Peterson

### **CLEANING ROTATION** (nave, narthex, hallway and upstairs restrooms; hall floor)

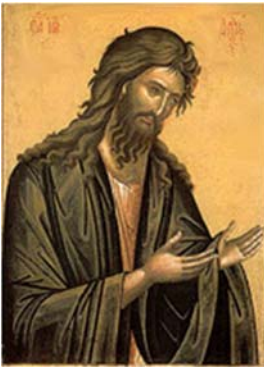
\*Volunteers needed, please contact Shamassy Susan 940-723-1726

Week of 5/9	Dn. Joseph + Shamasi Susan	Week of 5/23	Jeane Rickert+Need Volunteer
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Week of 5/16	Sandbergs+Tim Peterson	Week of 5/30	Need Volunteer+Bardwell
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**PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:** (John) Steven Wood, Jeannie (Shane Stancik), Bobbi Jo (friend of Tara Harmon), Michael (Michelle Molloy's grandfather), Nathaniel (brother in law of Bartimaeus), Chelsea Stillman, Amelia (Niece of Nicholas (Joey) Molloy), Lee (Mary/Jennifer Magdaleno's father), Shane Stancik Jr., Tessa/Anastasia (Parishioner at Holy Trinity), Spokane, Susannah (Jessica) Mannion, Benjamin Mannion, Charalambos and Eugenia (Mary Welsh's parents), Helen Weddle, Barbara Schaefer, Helen Odell, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus and those caring for the sick and suffering, victims of injustice and social unrest, Metropolitans Paul and John (hostages in Syria), the suffering Christians throughout the Middle East.

**PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:** Sbdn. Athanasios Schumacher, Victims of abortion, Victims of the Covid-19 virus, Victims of injustice and social unrest, the departed Christians throughout the world who have died for the Faith.



***Troparion of St. John the Baptist***

*The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise  
But the Lord's testimony is enough for thee O Forerunner  
For thou was shown to be more wonderful than the prophets  
Since thou was granted to baptize Him whom thou didst proclaim  
Then having endured great suffering for the truth  
Thou didst rejoice to bring even to those in hades the good tidings  
That God who has appeared in the flesh  
Takes away the sins of the world  
And grants us great mercy.*